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be made in this matter if the author consulted material kept at the archives of the Historiographic Institute, Imperial University of Tokyo.

The historical introduction, the eighteen appendices and other supplementary matters are highly valuable. On the whole, the work stands high above all other works of the class written in European languages, and may with a little labor be revised to become as thoroughly a trustworthy book, as it is indispensable in its present edition.

K. ASAKAWA.

Japan. By DAVID MURRAY, Ph.D., LL.D., Superintendent of Education in the Empire of Japan from 1873 to 1879. Revised edition. Supplementary chapters by Baron KENTARO KANEKO, LL.D. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1906. Pp. xii, 567.)

THE new edition of Murray's *Japan* appears with two supplementary chapters on recent events by Mr. Albert White Vorse and two lectures on the "resources and ideals of modern Japan" by Baron K. Kaneko. The body of the book remains substantially the same as in the first edition published in 1894, even at which early time it contained errors which modern criticism had long discarded, and omitted important discoveries that had recently been made. This condition was perhaps inevitable from the author's inability, in spite of his residence in Japan between 1873 and 1879 as educational adviser, to read any of the large number of her historical sources. He was obliged to rely mainly on the articles in the *Transactions* of the Asiatic Society of Japan, and the English works on Japan by Chamberlain, Satow, Griffis, Rein, Denning, and others, the only complete translation of an original source being the *Kozhiki* rendered and annotated by Chamberlain. Dr. Murray was ignorant even of the identity of the *Nihongi* and the *Nihon-shoki* (p. 121). Any one who knows something of the great activity and the progress of the historical investigations in Japan will be disturbed to see in this book old forgotten errors and inaccuracies repeated, recently acquired knowledge disregarded, and new assumptions of the most uncritical nature stated as facts. Misstatements of familiar facts occur throughout the volume. The native reader is also told that his countrymen believed in legends and stories which he has seldom heard (pp. 20, 70, 122, 123, 130, 139, etc.). Although the author seems remarkably free from the ordinary prejudices of the foreign writer not reading Japanese, his unfortunate want of information has led him into occasional dogmas. He is, to take only two instances, led astray by his preconception as to the declining quality of the successive members of each line of feudal suzerains (pp. 150, 183, 321), and makes the assertion that the seclusion of Japan (c. 1640-1854) "was a great mistake" (p. 310). While he is a faithful recorder of legendary tales, as witness his stories of the mythical age (ch. II.), of the Empress Jingo (p. 74), of

Tokiwa and Yoshitsune (p. 136), and the like, he omits such cardinal facts of Japanese history as the Reform of 645, the establishment of feudal administration in 1186, the introduction at different times of various Buddhist sects and their profound influence on national life, the feudal moral code *bushido*, the revival of learning and the diffusion of education under the Tokugawa, the work of the late Count Katsu and of Fukuzawa, and the rise of political parties in the '80's of the last century. As for the institutional side of history, which many a reader would consider the most important, it will be looked for in vain in this volume.

Murray's *Japan* has in every way been superseded by Captain F. Brinkley's *Japan* in his *Oriental Series*. The former yet deserves a place in a popular library, however, for its comparative freedom from sentimental and moral judgment of the things narrated, as well as for its wealth of descriptive though uncritically presented data.

Mr. Vorse's two supplementary chapters on the constitution and the Chinese and Russian wars seem to possess singularly strong and weak points. The writer has dealt with the complex political questions of an active nation in a remarkably light spirit. One marvels to read that Ito once went abroad against the law of the land, that he organized a political party in the same year in which the Progressive party was born, and that the revision of the treaties made in 1894 was "one of the first fruits of the war" with China. It would be unnecessary to multiply these cases of evident error. Mr. Vorse has also the habit of not specifying the time and place of many an important event: "in September, 1875", for instance, "a Korean fort" was bombarded by "a Japanese war-vessel". This habit has unfortunately exposed his chapters to several possible errors of anachronism, even about so late and well-known an event as the peace conference held at Portsmouth. The reader needs to be cautioned frequently as to the discussion of the constitution by the writer, who has allowed himself even to speak in one breath of the emperor and his advisers, showing a habit of thought which would mislead one throughout the entire history of the political relations of Japan in one of its most vital points. From beginning to end no authorities are cited or criticized, so that the helpless reader is unable either to trust or to doubt the clear and simple statements with which the chapters abound. Mr. Vorse appears at his best in his narration of the events of the late war.

Baron Kaneko's two lectures cannot be said to deserve a place in a book of history. They are pleas of an advocate, as well as amenities of an envoy. Japan is good, Russia is evil; the Europeans are selfish, the Americans are enlightened. The civilization of Old Japan is compared favorably in a few brief sentences with that of Phoenicia, Carthage, Greece, and Rome—in the reverse order of these countries. "In other words, her civilization had just as sound and substantial foundation as that of any country on the map to-day", an assertion large

enough to be proved in one page (p. 475). Japan is "the savior of Europe" (p. 489), for her mission is "the occidentalizing of the East" (p. 490).

The critical reader of these pages will again and again be vexed by the question why there should be such a great disparity between the quality of an English book on Japanese history published in 1906 and that of English books on the history of any Western nation, and even a greater difference between the state of historical knowledge about Japan at home and that abroad, than there seems to exist between the scientific value of any of the text-books in Japanese secondary schools and that of the present work. Should he lament this state of things, or should he rejoice that even an impure knowledge of a long secluded nation is now accessible to the general public?

K. ASAKAWA.

British Malaya. An Account of the Origin and Progress of British Influence in Malaya. By Sir FRANK SWETTENHAM, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner for the Federated Malay States. (New York: John Lane Company. 1907. Pp. xi, 354.)

THE career of Sir Frank Swettenham as a colonial administrator under the British crown has differed in one important particular from that of almost every other official of high rank under the Colonial Office.

It is the usual custom to promote the higher officials from one colony to another; and a glance at the record of services at the end of the Colonial Office List discloses a very remarkable range of experience among those gentlemen who are now at the head of the various colonial governments. The system is exactly opposite to that followed in the Indian service, where as a rule each government servant spends the greater part of his official life in one of the great provinces of which the Indian Empire is composed.

Each method has its advantages—the colonial method in that by presenting a succession of new problems to the administrator it counteracts any tendency towards administrative lethargy; the Indian method being admirably suited to the special conditions which arise from the great differences of race and language to be observed in the various parts of the Indian Empire.

Sir Frank Swettenham entered the service of the British government in the Malay Peninsula in 1868, and from that time until his retirement in 1904 he was constantly associated with the Malay states and the Straits settlements, rising from the lowest grade in the civil service, that of cadet, to the highest posts in the British administration in that part of the world—the governorship of the Straits Settlements and the high commissionership of the Federated Malay States.

It may be doubted whether, with the exception of Lord Cromer and His Highness Sir Charles Brooke, Raja of Sarawak, there is living